

February 20, 2012

Sen. Stedman
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99501

Mr. Chairman & member of the Finance Committee,

SB 27 will put Alaska out in front of the rest of the country when it comes to the composition of fire retardant components included in a myriad of products, both consumer and commercial, sold in Alaska.

I understand the health concerns proponents have raised and share them if they are in fact real. The issue is being addressed on the national level by the EPA and also voluntarily by manufacturers. Their proposed solution is due sometime next year.

I think this bill is premature.

Thank you.



Brian Ross

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Chairman Stedman
Senate Finance Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau

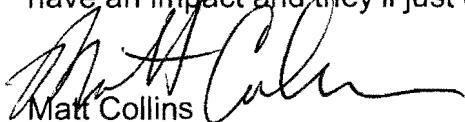
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Mr. Chairman:

I just want to express a few thoughts on a bill you're considering, SB 27, dealing with the composition of fire retardant materials that some claim unknowingly affect our daily environment and consequently, our health.

I've got a lot of friends who are environmental advocates and most of the time I agree with them but this time I think maybe they are going too far too fast.

As you know, fire is a huge, terrible issue in Alaska, especially in rural Alaska. I'm really not convinced this bill addresses the real solution to our problem here. I think we need to focus our time, energy and money on prevention and awareness and co-ordinate our concerns on this issue with a focus on a national solution to ingredients included in consumer products. Our market is too small to have an impact and they'll just cut us off and things could be even worse.



Matt Collins

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2/22/12

Alaska State Senate
Finance Committee
Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senate Finance:

I understand your committee is considering passing SB 27, a bill that would ban the use of a chemical essential for effective fire retardant in building materials and consumer products.

It is my understanding the use of this chemical is being addressed by the federal EPA. It seems silly to me that we are considering creating a state standard that we have little or no expertise in before the EPA, taking into consideration solid scientific evidence, addresses the issue on a national level. Then, after the national experts create a standard, is when we should address how that accommodates Alaska.

The bill is premature. Please don't pass it yet.


Kyle Farrell

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